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All Invited to Attend Prairie Gate Literary Festival Events and Workshops

Summary: Literary enthusiasts are invited to enjoy readings, workshops, and discussions with nationally and internationally recognized authors at the third annual Prairie Gate Literary Festival.

(February 8, 2013)-The third annual Prairie Gate Literary Festival will be held February 21-23 at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The festival aims to build the role of the literary arts in Morris and the surrounding community. Aspiring writers and literary enthusiasts are invited to enjoy free public readings as well as workshops and discussions with nationally and internationally recognized authors.

This year, the Prairie Gate Literary Festival will welcome five presenters: Ed Bok Lee, Brian Malloy, Adam McOmber, Mary Biddinger, and Patti See. Lee's new poetry collection, *Whorled*, won the 2012 American Book Award and the 2012 Minnesota Book Award in Poetry. Malloy, a 2009 Minnesota Book Award recipient, has written three novels: *The Year of Ice*, *Brendan Wolf*, and *Twelve Long Months*. McOmber is the author of the novel *The White Forest* and the short story collection *This New & Poisonous Air*. Biddinger is the author of several poetry collections. Her latest, *A Sunny Place with Adequate Water*, will debut in 2014. See's stories, poems, and essays have appeared in several magazines and anthologies, including *Salon* and *Women's Studies Quarterly*.

"By providing free public readings and affordable writing workshops led by a diverse group of writers, we hope to attract campus and community members, particularly from rural west central Minnesota," says Morris Student Administrative Fellow Anne Meyers-Welsch '13, Menomonie, Wisconsin. "I hope that participants leave the festival with a renewed appreciation for literature, an expansion of what that word means, and a personal empowerment to write literature of their own."

This activity is funded by the Friends of the Prairie Gate Literary Festival, Briggs Library, Briggs Library Associates, the UMM English Discipline, the Friends of the Morris Public Library, the International Programs Committee, the UMM Division of the Humanities, the UMM Alumni Association, the Imagine Fund, the Commission on Women, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, February 21

Open Mic

7:30 p.m.

McGinnis Room

Friday, February 22

Spoken word workshop

4:30–6 p.m.

Ed Bok Lee reading
7:30–9 p.m.
Briggs Library

Saturday, February 23
Workshop sign-in
8:30 a.m.
Student Center

Workshop 1: Ed Bok Lee
Workshop 2: Patti See
9–10:15 a.m.
Student Center/Briggs Library

Workshop 3: Mary Biddinger
Workshop 4: Brian Malloy
Workshop 5: Adam McOmber
10:30–11:45 a.m.
Student Center/Briggs Library

Lunch (provided for workshop attendees)
11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

Brian Malloy reading
1:30–2:30 p.m.
Briggs Library

Break/Book selling
3–4 p.m.

Patti See reading
4–5 p.m.
Briggs Library

Mary Biddinger/Adam McOmber reading
8–10 p.m.
Briggs Library

While all events are open to the public, preregistration for Saturday's writing workshops is greatly encouraged. The cost for workshops is \$20 for one session or \$30 for two sessions, which includes lunch with the writers. Additional information and registration is available [online](#).

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.